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(54) Title: <b>IVI-2, IVI-3 AND IVI-4 LOCI OF ENTEROCOCCUS FAECALIS POLYNUCLEOTIDE, POLYPEPTIDES AND METHOD OF USE THEREFOR</b>			
(57) Abstract <p>The present invention provides polynucleotides coding for the mature transcriptional regulators known as ivi-2 and ivi-3, as well as a polynucleotide coding for a polypeptide designated as ivi-4. The polynucleotides were obtained from a genomic library obtained from the bacterial species <i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>.</p>			

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**IVI-2, IVI-3 AND IVI-4 LOCI OF  
ENTEROCOCCUS FAECALIS POLYNUCLEOTIDE,  
POLYPEPTIDES AND METHOD OF USE THEREFOR**

This invention relates to newly identified polynucleotides, polypeptides encoded by such polynucleotides, the use of such polynucleotides and polypeptides, as well as the production and isolation of such polynucleotides and polypeptides. More particularly, the polynucleotides and polypeptides of the present invention have been putatively identified as transcriptional regulators.

Transcriptional regulators are factors that assist RNA polymerase to more accurately initiate and conduct transcription. Some transcription factors are general factors required for all promoters while others are gene-specific and are required only for certain promoters. Some general factors are also involved in the assembly of a multi-component protein complex of the promoter.

Transcriptional factors usually are found to have at least two functional domains, one for binding DNA and one for transcriptional activation. These functions are frequently found within circumscribed structural domains which frequently retain their function even when removed from the place of their natural occurrence.

Generally, *Enterococcus faecalis* is a pathogenic bacteria species which is known to cause infections, particularly endocarditis, in mammals. Therefore, suppression of a transcriptional regulator in such a bacteria would be detrimental to the growth of the bacteria and limit its ability to infect a host with endocarditis.

In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, there are provided novel transcriptional regulator polypeptides, as well as active fragments, analogs and derivatives thereof.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, there are provided isolated nucleic acid molecules encoding the transcriptional regulators of the present invention including mRNAs, cDNAs, genomic DNAs as well as active analogs and fragments of such transcriptional regulators.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention there are provided isolated nucleic acid molecules encoding mature polypeptides expressed by the DNA contained in ATCC Deposit No. 98167.

In accordance with yet a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a process for producing such polypeptides by recombinant techniques comprising culturing recombinant prokaryotic and/or eukaryotic host cells, containing a nucleic acid sequence of the present invention, under conditions promoting expression of said transcriptional regulators and subsequent recovery of said transcriptional regulators.

In accordance with yet a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a process for utilizing such transcriptional regulators as reagents for testing pharmaceutical antibiotics for their activity in deactivating or controlling the activity of the transcriptional regulators as part of a screening process to identify pharmaceuticals for treating or controlling *Enterococcus faecalis* infections.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention the polynucleotides or epitopic fragments thereof are useful as *in vitro* agents for producing monoclonal antibodies useful in screening procedures for diagnosing *Enterococcus faecalis* bacterial infections by identifying the presence of such bacteria in a specimen from a mammal suspected of having such an infection. Also, such polynucleotides or epitopic fragments are useful as reagents to test pharmaceutical chemicals for activity in suppressing the expression of such polynucleotides. Thus, the polynucleotides and polypeptides according to the invention are useful as *in vitro* agents for diagnostic and screening procedures for identifying and/or treating *Enterococcus faecalis* infections in mammals.

In another aspect of the present invention, an antisense construct prepared through the use of antisense technology, may be used to control gene expression through triple-helix formation or antisense DNA or RNA, both of which methods are based on binding of a polynucleotide to DNA or RNA. For example, the 5' coding portion of the polynucleotide sequence, which encodes for the mature polypeptides of the present invention, is used to design an antisense RNA oligonucleotide of from about 10 to 40 base pairs in length. A DNA oligonucleotide is designed to be complementary to a region of the gene involved in transcription (triple helix -see Lee et al., *Nucl. Acids Res.*, 6:3073 (1979); Cooney et al, *Science*, 241:456 (1988); and Dervan et al., *Science*, 251: 1360 (1991)), thereby preventing transcription and the production of the *E. faecalis* ivi locus genes. The antisense RNA oligonucleotide hybridizes to the mRNA *in vivo* and blocks translation of mRNA molecules into transcriptional regulator polypeptides (antisense - Okano, *J. Neurochem.*, 56:560 (1991); Oligodeoxynucleotides as Antisense Inhibitors of Gene Expression, CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL (1988)). The

oligonucleotides described above can also be delivered to cells such that the antisense RNA or DNA may be expressed *in vivo* to inhibit production of the ivi locus transcriptional regulators.

In accordance with yet a further aspect of the present invention, there are also provided nucleic acid probes comprising nucleic acid molecules of sufficient length to specifically hybridize to a nucleic acid sequence of the present invention.

In accordance with yet a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a process for utilizing such transcriptional regulator polypeptides, or polynucleotides encoding such polynucleotides, for *in vitro* purposes related to scientific research, for example, to generate probes for identifying similar sequences which might encode similar transcriptional regulators from other organisms by using certain regions, *i.e.*, conserved sequence regions, of the nucleotide sequence.

These and other aspects of the present invention should be apparent to those skilled in the art from the teachings herein.

#### Brief Description of the Drawings

The following drawings are illustrative of an embodiment of the invention and are not meant to limit the scope of the invention as encompassed by the claims.

#### Figure 1A-1B

Figures 1A-1B, collectively, are a contiguous illustration of the full-length DNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:1) and the corresponding deduced amino acid sequences for the JVI-2 locus of *Enterobacter faecalis* which is a transcriptional regulator of the present invention, as well as two other open reading frames and an intergenic region. Thus, Figure 1A has the beginnings of the sequences, and Figure 2A continues from Figure 1A with the last of the sequences.

Definitions

In order to facilitate understanding of the following description and examples which follow certain frequently occurring methods and/or terms will be described.

The term "gene" means the segment of DNA involved in producing a polypeptide chain; it includes regions preceding and following the coding region (leader and trailer) as well as intervening sequences (introns) between individual coding segments (exons).

A coding sequence is "operably linked to" another coding sequence when RNA polymerase will transcribe the two coding sequences into a single mRNA, which is then translated into a single polypeptide having amino acids derived from both coding sequences. The coding sequences need not be contiguous to one another so long as the expressed sequences ultimately process to produce the desired protein.

"Recombinant" polypeptides refer to polypeptides produced by recombinant DNA techniques; *i.e.*, produced from cells transformed by an exogenous DNA construct encoding the desired polypeptide. "Synthetic" polypeptides are those prepared by chemical synthesis.

A DNA "coding sequence of" or a "nucleotide sequence encoding" a particular enzyme, is a DNA sequence which is transcribed and translated into a polypeptide when placed under the control of appropriate regulatory sequences.

"Plasmids" are designated by a lower case "p" preceded and/or followed by capital letters and/or numbers. The starting plasmids herein are either commercially available, publicly available on an unrestricted basis, or can be constructed from available plasmids in accord with published procedures. In addition, equivalent plasmids to those described are known in the art and will be apparent to the ordinarily skilled artisan.

"Digestion" of DNA refers to catalytic cleavage of the DNA with a restriction enzyme that acts only at certain sequences in the DNA. The various restriction enzymes used herein are commercially available and their reaction conditions, cofactors and other requirements were used as would be known to the ordinarily skilled artisan. For analytical purposes, typically 1  $\mu$ g of plasmid or DNA fragment is used with about 2 units of enzyme in about 20  $\mu$ l of buffer solution. For the purpose of isolating DNA fragments for plasmid construction, typically 5 to 50  $\mu$ g of DNA are digested with 20 to 250 units of enzyme in a larger volume. Appropriate buffers and substrate amounts for particular restriction enzymes are specified by the manufacturer. Incubation times of about 1 hour at 37°C are ordinarily used, but may vary in accordance with the supplier's instructions. After digestion the reaction is electrophoresed directly on a polyacrylamide gel to isolate the desired fragment.

Size separation of the cleaved fragments is performed using 8 percent polyacrylamide gel described by Goeddel *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 8:4057 (1980).

"Oligonucleotides" refers to either a single stranded polydeoxynucleotide or two complementary polydeoxynucleotide strands which may be chemically synthesized. Such synthetic oligonucleotides have no 5' phosphate and thus will not ligate to another oligonucleotide without adding a phosphate with an ATP in the presence of a kinase. A synthetic oligonucleotide will ligate to a fragment that has not been dephosphorylated.

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"Ligation" refers to the process of forming phosphodiester bonds between two double stranded nucleic acid fragments (Maniatis, T., *et al.*, *Id.*, p. 146). Unless otherwise provided, ligation may be accomplished using known buffers and conditions with 10 units of T4 DNA ligase ("ligase") per 0.5  $\mu$ g of approximately equimolar amounts of the DNA fragments to be ligated.

Unless otherwise stated, transformation was performed as described in Sambrook and Maniatis, Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1989.

In accordance with an aspect of the present invention, there are provided isolated nucleic acids (polynucleotides) which encode for the mature ivi-2 polypeptide, for a second mature ivi-3 polypeptide, and for a portion of a polypeptide ivi-4, having the deduced amino acid sequences shown collectively by Figures 1A-1B (SEQ ID NOS:2, 4 and 6, respectively).

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, there are provided isolated polynucleotides encoding the ivi-2 and ivi-3 polypeptides, as well as the partial polypeptide of ivi-4 of the present invention. The deposited material is a genomic clone comprising DNA encoding the ivi-2, ivi-3 and partial ivi-4 polypeptides of the present invention, in a plasmid DNA vector form designated as pEFivi2. As deposited with the American Type Culture Collection, 12301 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20852, USA, the deposited material is assigned ATCC Deposit No. 98167, and was deposited on September 12, 1996.

The deposit has been made under the terms of the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Micro-organisms for Purposes of Patent Procedure. The clone will be irrevocably (without restriction or condition) released to the public upon the issuance of a patent. This deposit is provided merely as convenience to those of skill in the art and is not an admission that a deposit would be required under 35 U.S.C. §112. The sequence of the polynucleotide contained in the deposited material, as well as the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded thereby, are controlling in the event of any conflict with any description of sequences herein. A license may be required to make, use or sell the deposited material, and no such license is hereby granted.

Detailed Description of the Invention

Transcriptional regulators are a group of key polypeptides involved in phage lysogeny, sporulation, plasmid transfer, and amino acid utilization, as well as other activities. Such polypeptides are found in a number of bacterial species.

The polynucleotide of this invention coding for the *ivi-2* and *ivi-3* transcriptional regulators and the partial polypeptide of *ivi-4* was originally recovered from a genomic gene library derived from *Enterococcus faecalis*, of the genus *Enterococcus*. The particular strain of bacteria was JH2-2.

The polynucleotides of this invention having transcriptional regulation activity was cloned and recovered from a genomic gene library from *Enterococcus faecalis* strain JH2-2. Clones were obtained and one such clone was called EF*ivi*2 and the plasmid harbored by it was called pEF*ivi*2. The plasmid DNA was isolated from XL1-Blue for DNA sequencing.

The sequence of the entire insert of pEF*ivi*2 was obtained using an ABI Model 377 Automated Sequencer with dye-terminator and cycle sequencing chemistry. The completed sequence was analyzed using the MacVector sequence analysis program. The insert was found to be 798 base pairs in length (SEQ ID NO:1) and to contain two complete and one partial open reading frames (ORFs). (See Figures 1A-1B.) One coding for a 98 amino acid sequence polypeptide (SEQ ID NO:3) is designated as the *ivi-2* gene (SEQ ID NO:2). A second ORF sequence coding for a 61 amino acid *IVI-3* (SEQ ID NO:5) is transcribed in the opposite direction and is designated *IVI-3* (SEQ ID NO:4). The partial ORF, of which 28 amino acids (SEQ ID NO:7) were identified, lies 45 bases downstream of ORF and is designated *IVI-4* (SEQ ID NO:6). All three are preceded by putative ribosome binding sites (AGGAGG). The 164 base intergenic region between *ivi-2* and *ivi-3* appears to contain putative promoters capable of driving divergently transcribed genes. Further, *ivi-2* is preceded by the elements TTCAA and TATTAT, and *ivi-3* is preceded by TTGACG and TATTAT, which are similar to the -

35 (TTGACA) and -10 (TATAAT) consensus sequences recognized by *Bacillus subtilis*  $\sigma$  containing RNA polymerase. As neither a terminator nor a promoter lie between the end of ORF#1 and the beginning of ORF#2, it is likely that both are encoded by the same transcript RNA.

Identity searches of non-redundant protein databases were performed for each ORF using the BLAST algorithm. The hypothetical protein encoded by *ivi*-2 shows identity to 17 database entries with p values less than 0.01. All are members of the PBSX family of transcriptional regulators, which tends to confirm the predicted activity of the protein. ORF#1 (*ivi*-3) shows identity to 13 database entries with p values less than 0.01. These are also members of the PBSX family, and many of the same gene products are hit by both ORFs. The top scoring match for *ivi*-3 and the second scoring match for *ivi*-2 are two genes organized in the same divergent arrangement with comparable intergenic space as ORF#1 and *ivi*-2. These are hypothetical proteins from the skin element locus of *B. subtilis*.

One means for isolating the nucleic acid molecules encoding the transcriptional regulator polypeptides of the present invention is to probe a gene library with a natural or artificially designed probe using art recognized procedures (see, for example: Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Ausubel F.M. et al. (EDS.) Green Publishing Company Assoc. and John Wiley Interscience, New York, 1989, 1992). For example, ~~the partial gene sequence of *ivi*-4 is useful as a probe for obtaining the full length gene from a genomic library.~~ It is appreciated by one skilled in the art that the polynucleotides of SEQ ID NOS:1, or fragments thereof (comprising at least 12 contiguous nucleotides), are particularly useful probes. Other particularly useful probes for this purpose are hybridizable fragments of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 (i.e., comprising at least 12 contiguous nucleotides).

With respect to nucleic acid sequences which hybridize to specific nucleic acid sequences disclosed herein, hybridization may be carried out under conditions of

reduced stringency, medium stringency or even stringent conditions. As an example of oligonucleotide hybridization, a polymer membrane containing immobilized denatured nucleic acids is first prehybridized for 30 minutes at 45°C in a solution consisting of 0.9 M NaCl, 50 mM NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, pH 7.0, 5.0 mM Na<sub>2</sub>EDTA, 0.5% SDS, 10X Denhardt's, and 0.5 mg/mL polyriboadenylic acid. Approximately 2 X 10<sup>7</sup> cpm (specific activity 4.9 X 10<sup>8</sup> cpm/ug) of <sup>32</sup>P end-labeled oligonucleotide probe are then added to the solution. After 12-16 hours of incubation, the membrane is washed for 30 minutes at room temperature in 1X SET (150 mM NaCl, 20 mM Tris hydrochloride, pH 7.8, 1 mM Na<sub>2</sub>EDTA) containing 0.5% SDS, followed by a 30 minute wash in fresh 1X SET at T<sub>m</sub> less 10°C for the oligo-nucleotide probe. The membrane is then exposed to autoradiographic film for detection of hybridization signals.

Stringent conditions means hybridization will occur only if there is at least 90% identity, preferably at least 95% identity and most preferably at least 97% identity between the sequences. Further, it is understood that a section of a 100 bps sequence that is 95 bps in length has 95% identity with the 1090 bps sequence from which it is obtained. See J. Sambrook *et al.*, *Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual, 2d Ed.*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1989) which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. Also, it is understood that a fragment of a 100 bps sequence that is 95 bps in length has 95% identity with the 100 bps sequence from which it is obtained.

As used herein, a first DNA-(RNA)-sequence has a percent identity to another DNA (RNA) sequence if there is such percent identity between the bases of the first sequence and the bases of the another sequence, when properly aligned with each other, for example when aligned by BLASTN.

The present invention relates to polynucleotides which differ from the reference polynucleotide in a manner such that the change or changes is/are silent change(s), in that the amino acid sequence encoded by the polynucleotide remains the same. The present invention also relates to nucleotide changes which result in amino acid

substitutions, additions, deletions, fusions and truncations in the polypeptide encoded by the reference polynucleotide. In a preferred aspect of the invention these polypeptides retain the same biological action as the polypeptide encoded by the reference polynucleotide.

The polynucleotides of the present invention may be in the form of RNA or DNA which DNA includes cDNA, genomic DNA, and synthetic DNA. The DNA may be double-stranded or single-stranded, and if single stranded may be the coding strand or non-coding (anti-sense) strand. The coding sequences which encodes the mature transcriptional regulators according to the invention may be identical to the coding sequences shown in Figures 1A-2A, collectively, (SEQ ID NO:1) or may be a different coding sequence which coding sequence, as a result of the redundancy or degeneracy of the genetic code, encodes the same polypeptides and putative promoters as the DNA of Figures 1A-2A, collectively, (SEQ ID NO:1).

As hereinabove indicated, the polynucleotides may have a coding sequence which is a naturally occurring allelic variant of the coding sequence shown in Figures 1A-1B, collectively, (SEQ ID NO:1). As known in the art, an allelic variant is an alternate form of a polynucleotide sequence which may have a substitution, deletion or addition of one or more nucleotides, which does not substantially alter the function of the encoded polypeptide. Also, using directed and other evolution strategies, one may make very minor changes in DNA sequence which can result in major changes in function.

Fragments of the full length gene of the present invention may be used as hybridization probes for a cDNA or a genomic library to isolate the full length DNA and to isolate other DNAs which have a high sequence identity to the gene. Probes of this type preferably have at least 10, preferably at least 15, and even more preferably at least 30 bases and may contain, for example, at least 50 or more bases. In fact, probes of this type having at least up to 150 bases or greater may be utilized. The probe may also be used to identify a DNA clone corresponding to a full length transcript

and a genomic clone or clones that contain the complete gene including regulatory and promotor regions, exons and introns. An example of a screen comprises isolating the coding region of the gene by using the known DNA sequence to synthesize an oligonucleotide probe. Labeled oligonucleotides, having a sequence complementary to that of the gene or portion of the gene sequences of the present invention are used to screen a library of genomic DNA to determine which members of the library the probe hybridizes to in a complementary sense, have an identity as described above.

It is also appreciated that such probes can be and are preferably labeled with an analytically detectable reagent to facilitate identification of the probe. Useful reagents include but are not limited to radioactivity, fluorescent dyes or enzymes capable of catalyzing the formation of a detectable product. The probes are thus useful to isolate complementary copies of DNA from other sources or to screen such sources for related sequences.

The present invention further relates to polynucleotides which hybridize to the hereinabove-described sequences if there is at least 70%, preferably at least 90%, and more preferably at least 95% identity between the sequences. (As indicated above, 70% identity would include within such definition a 70 bps fragment taken from a 100 bp polynucleotide, for example.) The present invention particularly relates to polynucleotides which hybridize under stringent conditions to the hereinabove-described polynucleotides. As herein-used, the term "stringent conditions" means hybridization will occur only if there is at least 95% and preferably at least 97% identity between the sequences. The polynucleotides which hybridize to the hereinabove described polynucleotides in a preferred embodiment encode transcriptional regulators which either retain substantially the same biological function or activity as the *ivl-2* polypeptide encoded by the DNA of Figures 1A-2A, collectively, (SEQ ID NO:1). In referring to identity in the case of hybridization, as known in the art, such identity refers to complementarity of polynucleotide segments.

Alternatively, the polynucleotide may have at least 15 bases, preferably at least 30 bases, and more preferably at least 50 bases which hybridize to any part of a polynucleotide of the present invention and which has an identity thereto, as hereinabove described, and which may or may not retain activity. For example, such polynucleotides may be employed as probes for the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 1, for example, for recovery of the polynucleotide or as a diagnostic probe or as a PCR primer.

Thus, the present invention is directed to polynucleotides having at least a 70% identity, preferably at least 90% identity and more preferably at least a 95% identity to a polynucleotide which encodes the polypeptides of SEQ ID NOS:3, 5 and 7, respectively, as well as fragments thereof, which fragments have at least 15 bases, preferably at least 30 bases, more preferably at least 50 bases and most preferably fragments having up to at least 150 bases or greater, which fragments are at least 90% identical, preferably at least 95% identical and most preferably at least 97% identical to any portion of a polynucleotide of the present invention.

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The present invention further relates to polypeptides which have the deduced amino acid sequence of Figures 1A-2A, collectively, (SEQ ID NOS:3, 5 and 7, respectively) as well as fragments, analogs and derivatives of such polypeptide.

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The terms "fragment," "derivative" and "analog" when referring to the polypeptides having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOS:3, 5 and 7, respectively, means polypeptides which retain essentially the same biological function or activity as such polypeptides. Thus, an analog includes a proprotein which can be activated by cleavage of the proprotein portion to produce an active mature polypeptide.

The polypeptides of the present invention may be a recombinant polypeptide, a natural polypeptide or a synthetic polypeptide, preferably a recombinant polypeptide.

The fragment, derivative or analog of the polypeptides of SEQ ID NOS.3, 5 and 7, respectively, may be (i) one in which one or more of the amino acid residues are substituted with a conserved or non-conserved amino acid residue (preferably a conserved amino acid residue) and such substituted amino acid residue may or may not be one encoded by the genetic code, or (ii) one in which one or more of the amino acid residues includes a substituent group, or (iii) one in which the mature polypeptide is fused with another compound, such as a compound to increase the half-life of the polypeptide (for example, polyethylene glycol), or (iv) one in which the additional amino acids are fused to the mature polypeptide, such as a leader or secretory sequence or a sequence which is employed for purification of the mature polypeptide or a proprotein sequence. Such fragments, derivatives and analogs are deemed to be within the scope of those skilled in the art from the teachings herein.

The polypeptides and polynucleotides of the present invention are preferably provided in an isolated form, and preferably are purified to homogeneity.

The term "isolated" means that the material is removed from its original environment (e.g., the natural environment if it is naturally occurring). For example, a naturally-occurring polynucleotide or polypeptide present in a living animal is not isolated, but the same polynucleotide or polypeptide, separated from some or all of the coexisting materials in the natural system, is isolated. Such polynucleotides could be part of a vector and/or such polynucleotides or polypeptides could be part of a composition, and still be isolated in that such vector or composition is not part of its natural environment.

The polypeptides of the present invention include the polypeptides of SEQ ID NOS:3, 5 and 7, respectively, (in particular the mature polypeptide) as well as polypeptides which have at least 70% similarity (preferably at least 70% identity) to the polypeptides of SEQ ID NOS:3, 5 and 7, respectively, and more preferably at least 90% similarity (more preferably at least 90% identity) to the polypeptides of SEQ ID NOS:3,

5 and 7, respectively, and still more preferably at least 95% similarity (still more preferably at least 95% identity) to the polypeptides of SEQ ID NOS:3, 5 and 7, respectively, and also include portions of such polypeptides with such portion of the polypeptide generally containing at least 30 amino acids and more preferably at least 50 amino acids and most preferably at least up to 150 amino acids.

As known in the art "similarity" between two polypeptides is determined by comparing the amino acid sequence and its conserved amino acid substitutes of one polypeptide to the sequence of a second polypeptide. The definition of 70% similarity would include a 70 amino acid sequence fragment of a 100 amino acid sequence, for example, or a 70 amino acid sequence obtained by sequentially or randomly deleting 30 amino acids from the 100 amino acid sequence.

A variant, *i.e.* a "fragment", "analog" or "derivative" polypeptide, and reference polypeptide may differ in amino acid sequence by one or more substitutions, additions, deletions, fusions and truncations, which may be present in any combination.

Among preferred variants of polypeptides according to the invention are those that vary from a reference by conservative amino acid substitutions. Such substitutions are those that substitute a given amino acid in a polypeptide by another amino acid of like characteristics. Typically seen as conservative substitutions are the replacements, one for another, among the aliphatic amino acids Ala, Val, Leu and Ile; interchange of the hydroxyl residues Ser and Thr, exchange of the acidic residues Asp and Glu, substitution between the amide residues Asn and Gln, exchange of the basic residues Lys and Arg and replacements among the aromatic residues Phe, Tyr.

Most highly preferred are variants which retain the same biological function and activity as the reference polypeptide from which it varies.

Fragments or portions of the transcriptional regulator polypeptides of the present invention may be employed for producing the corresponding full-length polypeptide by peptide synthesis; therefore, the fragments may be employed as intermediates for producing the full-length polypeptides. Fragments or portions of the polynucleotides of the present invention may be used to synthesize full-length polynucleotides of the present invention.

The present invention also relates to vectors which include polynucleotides of the present invention, host cells which are genetically engineered with vectors of the invention and the production of polypeptides of the invention by recombinant techniques.

Host cells are genetically engineered (transduced or transformed or transfected) with the vectors of this invention which may be, for example, a cloning vector such as an expression vector. The vector may be, for example, in the form of a plasmid, a phage, etc. The engineered host cells can be cultured in conventional nutrient media modified as appropriate for activating promoters, selecting transformants or amplifying the genes of the present invention. The culture conditions, such as temperature, pH and the like, are those previously used with the host cell selected for expression, and will be apparent to the ordinarily skilled artisan.

The polynucleotides of the present invention may be employed for producing the polypeptides by recombinant techniques. Thus, for example, the polynucleotide may be included in any one of a variety of expression vectors for expressing a polypeptide. Such vectors include chromosomal, nonchromosomal and synthetic DNA sequences, e.g., derivatives of SV40; bacterial plasmids; phage DNA; baculovirus; yeast plasmids; vectors derived from combinations of plasmids and phage DNA, viral DNA such as vaccinia, adenovirus, fowl pox virus, and pseudorabies. However, any other vector may be used as long as it is replicable and viable in the host.

The appropriate DNA sequence may be inserted into the vector by a variety of procedures. In general, the DNA sequence is inserted into an appropriate restriction endonuclease site(s) by procedures known in the art. Such procedures and others are deemed to be within the scope of those skilled in the art.

The DNA sequence in the expression vector is operatively linked to an appropriate expression control sequence(s) (promoter) to direct mRNA synthesis. As representative examples of such promoters, there may be mentioned: LTR or SV40 promoter, the *E. coli*. lac or *trp*, the phage lambda P<sub>L</sub> promoter and other promoters known to control expression of genes in prokaryotic or eukaryotic cells or their viruses. The expression vector also contains a ribosome binding site for translation initiation and a transcription terminator. The vector may also include appropriate sequences for amplifying expression.

In addition, the expression vectors preferably contain one or more selectable marker genes to provide a phenotypic trait for selection of transformed host cells such as dihydrofolate reductase or neomycin resistance for eukaryotic cell culture, or such as tetracycline or ampicillin resistance in *E. coli*.

The vector containing the appropriate DNA sequence as hereinabove described, as well as an appropriate promoter or control sequence, may be employed to transform an appropriate host to permit the host to express the protein.

As representative examples of appropriate hosts, there may be mentioned: bacterial cells, such as *E. coli*, *Streptomyces*, *Bacillus subtilis*; fungal cells, such as yeast; insect cells such as *Drosophila S2* and *Spodoptera Sf9*; adenoviruses; plant cells, etc. The selection of an appropriate host is deemed to be within the scope of those skilled in the art from the teachings herein.

More particularly, the present invention also includes recombinant constructs comprising one or more of the sequences as broadly described above. The constructs comprise a vector, such as a plasmid or viral vector, into which a sequence of the invention has been inserted, in a forward or reverse orientation. In a preferred aspect of this embodiment, the construct further comprises regulatory sequences, including, for example, a promoter, operably linked to the sequence. Large numbers of suitable vectors and promoters are known to those of skill in the art, and are commercially available. The following vectors are provided by way of example; Bacterial: pQE70, pQE60, pQE-9 (Qiagen), pBluescript II KS, pTrc99a, pKK223-3, pDR540, pRIT2T (Pharmacia); Eukaryotic: pXT1, pSG5 (Stratagene) pSVK3, pBPV, pMSG, pSVL SV40 (Pharmacia). However, any other plasmid or vector may be used as long as they are replicable and viable in the host.

The genes described above and shown in Figures 1A-1B for ivi-2, ivi-3, and the partial for ivi-4 may be isolated from the deposited plasmid pEFivi-2 by the following digests:

ivi-2 - 418 basepair HinclI-Sau3AI fragment

ivi-3 - 2909 basepair HphI-HincII fragment

ivi-4 - 102 basepair Sau3AI-MnII fragment.

All of the restriction enzymes for obtaining such fragments are commercially available through New England Biolabs.

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For example, the ivi-2 gene product may be expressed by digesting plasmid pEFivi-2 with HinclI and Sau3AI and the 418 basepair fragment containing the ivi-2 gene is then isolated from an agarose gel. The fragment is used in a ligation with plasmid pBluescript KS (Stratagene), which has been previously digested with HinclI and BamHI. This places the ivi-2 gene and its native promoter downstream of the lac promoter contained on the vector. The ligation products are transformed into XL-1 Blue (Stratagene) and transformants are selected on LB agar containing 0.1 mg/ml ampicillin.

Colonies are selected and screened for presence of the insert. Liquid cultures are grown in LB broth 0.1 mg/ml ampicillin to a density of 0.1 A<sub>600</sub> and IPTG is added at 1 mM to induce expression of the lac promoter and consequently the expression of the ivi-2 gene.

The same approach may be utilized for obtaining the ivi-3 gene product, except that T4 DNA polymerase blunt-ending of the fragment after gel purification and ligation with HincII digested pBluescript would be used for the expression of ivi-3.

Promoter regions can be selected from any desired gene using CAT (chloramphenicol transferase) vectors or other vectors with selectable markers. Two appropriate vectors are pKK232-8 and pCM7. Particular named bacterial promoters include lacI, lacZ, T3, T7, gpt, lambda P<sub>R</sub>, P<sub>L</sub> and trp. Eukaryotic promoters include CMV immediate early, HSV thymidine kinase, early and late SV40, LTRs from retrovirus, and mouse metallothionein-I. Selection of the appropriate vector and promoter is well within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

In a further embodiment, the present invention relates to host cells containing the above-described constructs. The host cell can be a higher eukaryotic cell, such as a mammalian cell, or a lower eukaryotic cell, such as a yeast cell, or the host cell can be a prokaryotic cell, such as a bacterial cell. Introduction of the construct into the host cell can be effected by calcium-phosphate-transfection, DEAE-Dextran mediated transfection, or electroporation (Davis, L., Dibner, M., Battey, J., *Basic Methods in Molecular Biology*, (1986)).

The constructs in host cells can be used in a conventional manner to produce the gene product encoded by the recombinant sequence. Alternatively, the polypeptides of the invention can be synthetically produced by conventional peptide synthesizers.

Mature proteins can be expressed in yeast, bacteria, or other cells under the control of appropriate promoters. Cell-free translation systems can also be employed to produce such proteins using RNAs derived from the DNA constructs of the present invention. Appropriate cloning and expression vectors for use with prokaryotic and eukaryotic hosts are described by Sambrook *et al.*, *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Second Edition*, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., (1989), the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Transcription of the DNA encoding the enzymes of the present invention by higher eukaryotes is increased by inserting an enhancer sequence into the vector. Enhancers are cis-acting elements of DNA, usually about from 10 to 300 bp that act on a promoter to increase its transcription. Examples include the SV40 enhancer on the late side of the replication origin bp 100 to 270, a cytomegalovirus early promoter enhancer, the polyoma enhancer on the late side of the replication origin, and adenovirus enhancers.

Generally, recombinant expression vectors will include origins of replication and selectable markers permitting transformation of the host cell; e.g., the ampicillin resistance gene of *E. coli* and *S. cerevisiae* TRP1 gene, and a promoter derived from a highly-expressed gene to direct transcription of a downstream structural sequence. Such promoters can be derived from operons encoding glycolytic enzymes such as 3-phosphoglycerate kinase (PGK),  $\alpha$ -factor, acid phosphatase, or heat shock proteins, among others. The heterologous structural sequence is assembled in appropriate phase with translation initiation and termination sequences, and preferably, a leader sequence capable of directing secretion of translated enzyme. Optionally, the heterologous sequence can encode a fusion enzyme including an N-terminal identification peptide imparting desired characteristics, e.g., stabilization or simplified purification of expressed recombinant product.

Useful expression vectors for bacterial use are constructed by inserting a structural DNA sequence encoding a desired protein, together with suitable translation initiation and termination signals in operable reading phase with a functional promoter. The vector will comprise one or more phenotypic selectable markers and an origin of replication to ensure maintenance of the vector and to, if desirable, provide amplification within the host. Suitable prokaryotic hosts for transformation include *E. coli*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Salmonella typhimurium* and various species within the genera *Pseudomonas*, *Streptomyces*, and *Staphylococcus*, although others may also be employed as a matter of choice.

As a representative but nonlimiting example, useful expression vectors for bacterial use can comprise a selectable marker and bacterial origin of replication derived from commercially available plasmids comprising genetic elements of the well known cloning vector pBR322 (ATCC 37017). Such commercial vectors include, for example, pKK223-3 (Pharmacia Fine Chemicals, Uppsala, Sweden) and pGEM1 (Promega Biotec, Madison, WI, USA). These pBR322 "backbone" sections are combined with an appropriate promoter and the structural sequence to be expressed.

Following transformation of a suitable host strain and growth of the host strain to an appropriate cell density, the selected promoter is induced by appropriate means (e.g., temperature shift or chemical induction) and cells are cultured for an additional period.

Cells are typically harvested by centrifugation, disrupted by physical or chemical means, and the resulting crude extract retained for further purification.

Microbial cells employed in expression of proteins can be disrupted by any convenient method, including freeze-thaw cycling, sonication, mechanical disruption, or use of cell lysing agents, such methods are well known to those skilled in the art.

For preparation of monoclonal antibodies, any technique which provides antibodies produced by continuous cell line cultures can be used. Examples include the hybridoma technique (Kohler and Milstein, *Nature*, 256:495-497, 1975), the trioma technique, the human B-cell hybridoma technique (Kozbor *et al.*, *Immunology Today* 4:72, 1983), and the EBV-hybridoma technique to produce human monoclonal antibodies (Cole *et al.*, in *Monoclonal Antibodies and Cancer Therapy*, Alan R. Liss, Inc., pp. 77-96, 1985).

Techniques described for the production of single chain antibodies (U.S. Patent 4,946,778) can be adapted to produce single chain antibodies to immunogenic enzyme products of this invention. Also, transgenic mice may be used to express humanized antibodies to immunogenic polypeptide products of this invention.

Antibodies generated against a transcriptional promoter of the present invention may be used in screening for similar transcriptional promoters from other organisms and samples. Such screening techniques are known in the art, for example, one such screening assay is described in Sambrook and Maniatis, *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual* (2d Ed.), vol. 2:Section 8.49, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1989, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

The present invention will be further described with reference to the following examples; however, it is to be understood that the present invention is not limited to such examples. All parts or amounts, unless otherwise specified, are by weight.

#### Example 1

To help confirm the transcriptional activity of the *iwi-2* gene, the gene was inactivated. An internal fragment of the gene corresponding to amino acids 18 through 86 was generated using PCR using the oligonucleotides GTCGAGTCGACT-GATGTTGCAAATGCACTT and GCAGGGTCGACGTATCGTCTATGAGCA, (SEQ ID NOS:8 and 9, respectively). These oligonucleotides added *Sall* sites to the

ends for cloning into plasmid pBR $\Omega$ KM-2. The PCR internal fragment and the plasmid were digested with *Sall* and ligated together to form a new plasmid. The resulting plasmid which was incapable of replication in *E. faecalis*. Electroporation of JH2-2 and integration of the plasmid onto the chromosome is by recombination at the cloned *ivi-2* internal fragment, which disrupts and inactivates the gene. The electroporants of JH2-2 demonstrate very poor growth in kanamycin, despite carrying the Km-2 gene. When they are grown in the absence of the antibiotic, the cells appear to rapidly excise and segregate the plasmid. This data indicates that *ivi-2* is an essential gene for growth.

#### Example 2

In order to express the *ivi-2* gene product, plasmid pEfivi-2 is digested with *HincII* and *Sau3A1* and the 418 basepair fragment containing the *ivi-2* gene is isolated from an agarose gel. It is used in a ligation with plasmid pBluescript KS (Stratagene), which has been previously digested with *HincII* and *BamHI*. This places the *ivi-2* gene and its native promoter downstream of the lac promoter contained on the vector. The ligation products are transformed into XL-1 Blue (Stratagene) and transformants are selected on LB agar containing 0.1mg/ml ampicillin. Colonies are selected and screened for presence of the insert. Liquid cultures are grown in LB broth 0.1mg/ml ampicillin to a density of 0.1 A<sub>600</sub> and IPTG is added to 1mM to induce expression of the lac promoter and expression of the *ivi-2* gene. Expression of the 11.2kD gene product is monitored on an SDS-polyacrylamide gel.

#### Example 3

In order to express the ORF1 (*ivi-3*) gene product, plasmid pEfivi-2 is digested with *HincII* and *HphI* and the 299 basepair fragment containing the *ivi-3* gene is isolated from an agarose gel. It is treated with T4 DNA polymerase to make the *HphI* end blunt. It is then used in a ligation with plasmid pBluescript KS (Stratagene), which has been previously digested with *HincII*. This places the *ivi-3* gene and its native promoter

downstream of the lac promoter contained on the vector. The ligation products are transformed into XL-1 Blue (Stratagene) and transformants are selected on LB agar containing 0.1mg/ml ampicillin. Colonies are selected and screened for presence of the insert. Liquid cultures are grown in LB broth 0.1mg/ml ampicillin to a density of 0.1 A<sub>600</sub> and IPTG is added at 1mM to induce expression of the lac promoter and expression of the ivi-2 gene. Expression of the 7.2kD gene product is monitored on an SDS-polyacrylamide gel.

Example 4

In order to express and purify the ivi-2 gene product, plasmid pEfivi-2 is used as the template for PCR using the oligonucleotides CATATGTTCCGTACACGCTTA and CATATGTCAATGAAAAGAGAG (SEQ ID NOS:10 and 11, respectively). The 306 basepair PCR product containing the ivi-2 gene is digested with NdeI and isolated from an agarose gel. It is used in a ligation with plasmid pET-15b (Novagen), which has been previously digested with NdeI. This places the ivi-2 coding sequences downstream of the lac and T7 promoters contained on the vector and adds sequences encoding a hexahistidine tag to the 5' end of the ivi-2 gene, creating a chimeric polypeptide product. The ligation products are transformed into BL21 (Novagen) and transformants are selected on LB agar containing 0.1mg/ml ampicillin. Colonies are selected and screened for presence of the insert. Liquid cultures are grown in LB broth 0.1mg/ml ampicillin to a density of 0.1 A<sub>600</sub> and IPTG is added at 1mM to induce expression of the lac promoter and expression of the ivi-2 gene. Expression of the 11.2kD gene product is monitored on an SDS-polyacrylamide gel. Cells are lysed and the lysate is passed through a histidine binding resin column (Novagen), which binds the chimeric protein. The protein is eluted with imidazole and the histidine tag is cleaved by addition of thrombin. This produces substantially purified ivi-2 polypeptide.

Example 5

In order to express and purify the ivi-3 gene product, plasmid pEfivi-2 is used as the template for PCR using the oligonucleotides CATATGGAGGATTGGCTATTG

and CATATGTTATTCAAAAAAAAG (SEQ ID NOS:12 and 13, respectively). The 196 basepair PCR product containing the ivi-3 gene is digested with Hdel and isolated from an agarose gel. It is used in a ligation with plasmid pET-15b (Novagen), which has been previously digested with NdeI. This places the ivi-3 coding sequences downstream of the lac and T7 promoters contained on the vector and adds sequences encoding a hexahistidine tag to the 5' end of the ivi-3 gene, creating a chimeric polypeptide product. The ligation products are transformed into B1.21 (Novagen) and transformants are selected on LB agar containing 01.mg/ml ampicillin. Colonies are selected and screened for presence of the insert. Liquid cultures are grown in LB broth 0.1mg/ml ampicillin to a density of 0.1 A<sub>600</sub> and IPTG is added at 1mM to induce expression of the lac promoter and expression of the ivi-3 gene. Expression of the 7.2kD gene product is monitored on an SDS-polyacrylamide gel. Cells are lysed and the lysate is passed through a histidine binding resin column (Novagen), which binds the chimeric protein. The protein is eluted with imidazole and the histidine tag is cleaved by addition of thrombin. This produces substantially purified ivi-3 polypeptide.

Numerous modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings and, therefore, within the scope of the appended claims, the invention may be practiced otherwise than as particularly described.

## SEQUENCE LISTING

## (1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

(i) APPLICANT: DAVID T. BEATTIE

(ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: IVI-2, IVI-3 and IVI-4 LOCI OF ENTEROCOCCUS FAECALIS, POLYNUCLEOTIDE, POLYPEPTIDES AND METHOD OF USE THEREFOR

(iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 13

## (iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

(A) ADDRESSEE: CARELLA, BYRNE, BAIN, GILFILLAN,  
CECHI, STEWART & OLSTEIN  
 (B) STREET: 6 BECKER FARM ROAD  
 (C) CITY: ROSELAND  
 (D) STATE: NEW JERSEY  
 (E) COUNTRY: USA  
 (F) ZIP: 07068

## (v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:

(A) MEDIUM TYPE: 3.5 INCH DISKETTE  
 (B) COMPUTER: IBM PS/2  
 (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: MS-DOS  
 (D) SOFTWARE: ASCII

## (vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:

(A) APPLICATION NUMBER: Unassigned  
 (B) FILING DATE: Concurrently  
 (C) CLASSIFICATION:

## (vii) PRIOR APPLICATION DATA:

(A) APPLICATION NUMBER: 60/025899  
 (B) FILING DATE: 18 SEP 96  
 (C) CLASSIFICATION:

## (viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:

(A) NAME: MULLINS, J.G.  
 (B) REGISTRATION NUMBER: 33,073  
 (C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: 732250-137

## (ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:

(A) TELEPHONE: 201-894-1700  
 (B) TELEFAX: 201-994-1744

## (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

## (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS

(A) LENGTH: 798 NUCLEOTIDES  
 (B) TYPE: NUCLEIC ACID  
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: SINGLE  
 (D) TOPOLOGY: LINEAR

## (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

## (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

GATCATCTGT TGCTAGTTCA ACAATAAGCT TTACGTTTGG CATGATTTC CAAATGAAAT 60  
 CAATCCTT TTGTTTTCTT GGCATATTTT CACCTCCTAT CCAAATGTA AGAGTCATAA 120  
 CGAGTCATAG TTATTCAAA AAAAGTGTC AATCAAACC CAAAATTGAT GCGATTGCA 180

TAGCACTTTC	CACAGACGGT	CTTCTTCTTC	CTGTTCAAT	AGATGCATAT	GTTGGTCTTG	240
AAATTTCGGC	TTAACCGGA	ACCTCTTCTT	GAGTCATTTT	ATTTTTTATA	CGCAATTTC	300
ATAGCCATTC	TCTCATTTTA	CGTCCTCCCT	TATGTGTCGT	ATTGCGTACT	TTTATAATAC	360
TACGCATTT	GACACACGTC	AACAATTAAAT	TACTCTTTTT	GACACATTC	ATATATTTAA	420
CTTCAAACTA	CGCATATTGC	GTAGTATTAT	ATGTACATAA	CGAACCTGTA	GAGGTAACAT	480
TATGTTCGGT	ACACGTTAA	CAGAATTAAG	GAAAACAAAAA	AAATTAACAC	AAACTGATGT	540
TGCAAATGCA	CTTGGTGTAG	CTGAAACGAC	TTACTCTTCC	TATGAAACAG	GAAGAAGAAC	600
TCCAGATATA	GATATCCCCA	ATAAGATTGC	TGACTATTTTC	AATGTAAGTC	TAGATTATTT	660
ACATGGGAGA	GAAGATTTTG	AAGATACITC	CTTATCAAAA	AAACAATTAA	CCGTCGCTGC	720
TCTATAGAC	GATGACGTTT	CAGATACAGA	AATGAATGAG	ATTCTCTCCT	TTCTATTGATT	780
ATATTAAGAA	ACCGGATC					798

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

### (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS

- (A) LENGTH: 297 NUCLEOTIDES  
(B) TYPE: NUCLEIC ACID  
(C) STRANDEDNESS: SINGLE  
(D) TOPOLOGY: LINEAR

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

ATGTTCGGTA	CACCGCTTAAAC	AGAAATTAAAGG	AAACAAAAAAA	AATTAAACACA	AACTGTGTT	60
GCAAATGCAC	TTGGTGTAGC	TAGAACGACT	TACTCTTCCT	ATGAACAAGG	AAGAAGAACT	120
CCAGATATAG	ATATCCAAAA	TAAGATTGCT	GACTATTTCA	ATGTAAGTCT	AGATTATTTA	180
CATGGGAGAG	AAAGTTTGTG	AGATACTTCC	TTATCAAAAAA	ACAATTAAAC	CGTCGCTGCT	240
CATATAGACG	ATGAACGTTTC	AGATAACAGAA	ATGAATGAGA	TTCTCTCTTT	TCATIGA	297

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS

- (A) LENGTH: 98 AMINO ACIDS  
 (B) TYPE: POLYPEPTIDE  
 (D) TOPOLOGY: LINEAR

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: PROTEIN

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

Met Phe Gly Thr Arg Lei Thr Glu Leu Arg Lys Gln Lys Lys Leu  
5 10 15

Thr Gln Thr Asp Val Ala Asn Ala Leu Gly Val Ala Arg Thr Thr  
20 25 30

Tyr Ser Ser Tyr Glu Gln Gly Arg Arg Thr Pro Asp Ile Asp Ile  
35 40 45

Gln Asn Lys Ile Ala Asp Tyr Phe Asn Val Ser Leu Asp Tyr Leu  
50 55 60

His Gly Arg Glu Ser Phe Glu Asp Thr Ser Leu Ser Lys Lys Gln  
65 70 75

Leu Thr Val Ala Ala His Ile Asp Asp Asp Val Ser Asp Thr Glu  
80 85 90

**Met Asn Glu Ile Leu Ser Phe His**

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

### (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS

- (A) LENGTH: 186 NUCLEOTIDES
  - (B) TYPE: NUCLEIC ACID
  - (C) STRANDEDNESS: SINGLE
  - (D) TOPOLOGY: LINEAR

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

```

ATGAGAGATT GGCTATTGAA ATTGCGTATA AAAAATAAAA TGACTCAAGA AGAGGGTGCC 60
GTTAAAGCGG AAATTTCAGG AACACATAT GCATCTATTG AACAGGGGAAG AAGAAGACCG 120
TCTGTGGAAA GTGCTATGCG AATCGCATCA ATTTTGGGTT TTGATTGGAC ACTTTTTTTT 180
GAATAA 186

```

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ. ID NO:5:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS

- (A) LENGTH: 61 AMINO ACIDS
  - (B) TYPE: POLYPEPTIDE
  - (D) TOPOLOGY: LINEAR

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: PROTEIN

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:5:

Met Arg Asp Trp Leu Leu Lys Leu Arg Ile Lys Asn Lys Met Thr  
5 10 15

Ala Ser Ile Glu Gln Gly Arg Arg Arg Pro Ser Val Glu Ser Ala  
35 40 45

**Met Arg Ile Ala Ser Ile Leu Gly Phe Asp Trp Thr Leu Phe Phe**  
50 55 60

Glu

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:6:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS

- (A) LENGTH: NUCLEOTIDES
  - (B) TYPE: NUCLEIC ACID
  - (C) STRANDEDNESS: SINGLE
  - (D) TOPOLOGY: LINEAR

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:6:

ATGCCAGAAA AACAAAAGAT GATTGATITC ATTTTGGAAA TCATGCCAA CGTAAAGCTT 60  
ATTGTTGAAC TAGCAACAGA TGATC 85

## (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:7:

## (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS

- (A) LENGTH: 28 AMINO ACIDS
- (B) TYPE: POLYPEPTIDE
- (D) TOPOLOGY: LINEAR

## (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: PROTEIN

## (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:7:

Met Pro Glu Lys Gln Lys Met Ile Asp Phe Ile Leu Glu Ile Met  
5 10 15

Pro Asn Val Lys Leu Ile Val Glu Leu Ala Thr Asp Asp  
20 25

## (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:8

## (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS

- (A) LENGTH: 29 NUCLEOTIDES
- (B) TYPE: NUCLEIC ACID
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: SINGLE
- (D) TOPOLOGY: LINEAR

## (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

## (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:8:

GTCGAGTCGAC TGATGTGCA AATGCACTT 29

## (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:9:

## (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS

- (A) LENGTH: 30 NUCLEOTIDES
- (B) TYPE: NUCLEIC ACID
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: SINGLE
- (D) TOPOLOGY: LINEAR

## (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

## (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:9:

GCAGGGTCGA CGTCATCGTC TATATGAGCA 30

## (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:10

## (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS

- (A) LENGTH: 21 NUCLEOTIDES
- (B) TYPE: NUCLEIC ACID
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: SINGLE
- (D) TOPOLOGY: LINEAR

## (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

## (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:10:

CATATGTTCG GTACACCGCTT A 21

## (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:11:

## (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS

- (A) LENGTH: 20 NUCLEOTIDES
- (B) TYPE: NUCLEIC ACID
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: SINGLE
- (D) TOPOLOGY: LINEAR

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:11:

ATATGTCAAT GAAAAGAGAG

20

## (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:12

## (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS

- (A) LENGTH: 21 NUCLEOTIDES
- (B) TYPE: NUCLEIC ACID
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: SINGLE
- (D) TOPOLOGY: LINEAR

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:12:

CATATGGAGG ATTGGCTATT G

21

## (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:13:

## (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS

- (A) LENGTH: 21 NUCLEOTIDES
- (B) TYPE: NUCLEIC ACID
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: SINGLE
- (D) TOPOLOGY: LINEAR

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:13:

CATATGTTAT TCAAAAAAAA G

21

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide having at least a 95% identity to a member selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acid 2 to 98 of SEQ ID NO. 2;
- (b) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acid 2 to 61 of SEQ ID NO. 3;
- (c) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acid 2 to 28 of SEQ ID NO. 4;
- (d) the complement of (a), (b) or (c).

2. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1 wherein said member is (a).

3. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1 wherein said member is (b).

4. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1 wherein said member is (c).

5. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1 wherein said member is (a) and said polypeptide comprises amino acids 1 to 98 of SEQ ID NO:2.

6. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1 wherein said member is (b) and said polypeptide comprises amino acids 1 to 61 of SEQ ID NO:3.

7. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1 wherein said member is (c) and said polypeptide comprises amino acids 1 to 28 of SEQ ID NO:4.

8. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide is DNA.

9. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide is RNA.

10. A method of making a recombinant vector comprising inserting the isolated polynucleotide of claim 1 into a vector, wherein said polynucleotide is DNA.

11. A recombinant vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide is DNA.

12. A recombinant host cell comprising the polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide is DNA.

13. A method for producing a polypeptide comprising expressing from the recombinant cell of claim 12 the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide.

14. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1, comprising a polynucleotide sequence which is at least 95% identical to nucleotides 1 to 798 of SEQ ID NO. 1.

15. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1 comprising the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO. 1.

16. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide having at least a 95% identity to a member selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polynucleotide encoding the same mature polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA in ATCC Deposit No. 98167, and

(b) the complement of (a).

17. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 15, wherein the member is (a).

18. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 15, wherein the member is (b).

19. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 15 comprising a polynucleotide which encodes for the same mature polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA in ATCC Deposit No. 98167.

1/2

## FIG 1A

50

G ATC ATC TGT TGC TAG TTC AAC AAT AAG CTT TAC GTC CAT GAT TTC CAA AAT CAA  
 C TAG TAG ACA ACG ATC AAG TTC TTA TTC CAA ATG CAA ACC GTA CTA AAC CTT TTA CTT  
 <-D D T A L E V I L K V N P M I E L I F

100

ATC AAT CAT CTT TTG TTT TTC TCG CAT ATTTTCACTCTCTATCCAAATGTTAAAGACTCATAACCAACTATA  
 TAG TTA GTA GAA AAC AAA AAG ACC CTA TAAAACCTGGACCATAGCTTTACATTTCACATTTGCTCACTATTGCTCACTAT

C I M K Q X E P M &lt;-ORF2 rbs

150

G TTA TTC AAA AAA AAG TGT CCA ATC AAA ACC CAA AAT TGA TGC GAT TCG CAT ACC ACT  
 C AAT AAG TTT TTT TTC ACA GGT TAG TTT TGG GTT TTA ACT ACG CTA AGC GTA TCG TCA  
 END E F F L T W D F G L I S A I R M A S

200

TTC CAC AGA CGG TCT TCT TCC CTC TTC AAC AGA TGC ATA TGT GGT TCT TGA AAT TTC  
 AAG GTG TCT GCC AGA AGA AGA AGC GAC AAG TTA TCT ACG TAT ACA CCA AGA ACT TTA AAG  
 E V S P R R R G Q E I S A Y T T R S I E

250

300

CGC TTT AAC GGC AAC CTC TTC TTC AGT CAT TTT ATT TTT TAT ACC CAA TTT CAA TAG CCA  
 GCG AAA TTG CCG TTG GAG AAG AAC TCA GTA AAA TAA AAA ATA TGC GTT AAA GTT ATC GGT  
 A K V A V E E Q T M X N K I R L K L L W

350

ATC TCT CAT TTTACGTCTCTCTTATGCTGCTATTCGTACTTTATAATACTAGGCATTTCACACACGTCAAC  
 TAG AGA GTA AAATGCAGGAGGAATACAGCAGCATAACGCATGAAATATTATGCTAAAATGTGTGCTCAGTIG  
 D R M <-ORF1 rbs -10 35

400

450

-35

-10

AATTAATTACTCTTTTGACACATTCAATATATTAACTTCACTACGGCATATTGGCTACTATTATATGTACATAACGA  
 TTAAATTATGAGAAAAACTGTGTAAGTTATATAAATTGAAGTTGTGATGGCTATAACGCATCATAATATACATGTATTGCT

500

rbs \*  
 ATCGTGGAAQTAACATT ATG TTC GGT ACA CGC TTA ACA GAA TTA AGG AAA CAA AAA AAA TTA  
 TAGCATCTCCATTGTAATAC AAG CCA TGT GCG AAT TGT CTT AAT TCC TTT GTT TTT TTT AAT  
 jvi-2-> M F G T R L T E L R K Q K K L

550

ACA CAA ACT GAT GTT GCA AAT GCA CTT GGT CTA CCT AGA ACG ACT TAC TCT TCC TAT CAA  
 TGT GTT TGA CTA CAA CGT TTA CCT CAA CCA CAT CCA TCT TCC TGA ATC ACA AGC ATA CTT  
 T Q T D V A N A L G V A R T T Y S S Y E

FIG. 1B

600

CAA GGA AGA AGA ACT CCA GAT ATA GAT ATC CAA AAT AAC ATT GCT GAC TAT TTC AAT GTC  
GTT CCT TCT TCT TGA GGT CTA TAT CTA TAG GTT TUA TTC TAA CGA CTG ATA AAG TTA CAT  
Q G R R T P D I D I Q N K I A D Y F N V

650

700

AGT CTA GAT TAT TTA CAT GGG AGA GAA ACT TTT GAA GAT ACT TCG TTA TCA AAA AAA CGA  
TCA GAT CTC ATA AAT GTC CCC TCT CTT TCA AAA CTT CTA TCA AGG AAT AGT TTT TTT GTT  
S L D Y L H C R E S F E D T S L S K K Q

750

TTA ACC GTC GCT GCT CAT ATA GAC GAT GAC GTT TCA GAT ACA GAA ATG AAT GAG ATT CTC  
AAT TGG CAG CGA CGA GTC TAT CTG CTA CTG CAA AGT CTC TGT CTT TAC TTA CTC TAA GAG  
L T V A A H I D D D V S D T E M N E I L

TCT TTT CAT TCA TTATTTAACAAACCCCATC  
AGA AAA GTC ACT AATATAATTCTTTGGGCTAG  
S P H END

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US97/16589

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC(6) :C07H 21/04; C12N 15/00, 15/09, 15/63, 15/70, 15/74, 5/00  
US CL :536/23.1, 24.1; 435/320.1, 240.2, 252.3

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 536/23.1, 24.1; 435/320.1, 240.2, 252.3

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

DIALOG:author and word search. Search terms include: (enterococc? or enterobacter?) (w) faecalis, ivi, transcript?, ATCC (3a)  
98167

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	Database BIOSIS on Dialog, Number: 99494305, GOLD, H.S. "Detection of genes involved in the pathogenesis of experimental enterococcal endocarditis using in vivo expression technology (IVET)," abstract, Abstracts of the Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, Volume 36, Number 0, 1996, page 33.	1-19

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.  See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A"		document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
"B"	"X"	earlier document not published on or after the international filing date
"L"		document which may throw doubt on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another creation or other special reasons (as specified)
"O"	"Y"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
"P"	"A"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

Date of the actual completion of the international search

17 DECEMBER 1997

Date of mailing of the international search report

12 FEB 1998

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